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REVIEW

AIDS TO ANATOMY: POCKET ANATOMY. By R. J. Last, M.B., B.Sc.
(Adel.), F.R.C.S. Pp. viii-380, with 60 illustrations. 11th Edition. March,
1951. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS edition of the well known "Pocket Gray," as it has been called during part of its long history, has been thoroughly revised by the Professor of Applied Anatomy, at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and is assured of a ready welcome. The Birmingham revised terminology is used throughout, and much old material has been replaced by new. This latter may seem an impossibility, but besides some generalizations on joints and muscles, which were not given previously, information on the arches of the foot, the thoracic wall, the breast, the lymphatic system, the cranial autonomic ganglia, the dermatomes and the larynx has been expanded. The new conceptions of the true attachments and actions of the popliteus muscle, which were mainly worked out by the editor himself, have also been incorporated in text and diagram.

Agreement on the segmental distribution of the nerves to the skin seems to be as difficult to attain as international agreement, so perhaps it is not surprising that in a book of this nature the editor should give only his personal opinion on this debatable question. The experimental results of Keegan and Garrett (1948) have been ignored and the older scheme of dorsal and ventral axial lines on the limbs has been retained. The newer explanation of a single ventral axial line at which the more cranial nerves meet the more caudal would appear to have the support of both experimental and clinical evidence, and it is a pity that it was not given preference. The general plan of the book is unchanged and its usefulness as an aide memoire should ensure its continued popularity.

W. R. M. M.